





# THE \* AMERICAN \* NUMISMATIST.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN THE INTEREST OF COIN COLLECTORS.

VOL. I.

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No. 2.

(For the American Numismatist.)

## THE CALIFORNIA SLUG.

BY C. E. LEAL.

This well-known coin of the fifty-dollar denomination was first issued by the United States Assay Office of California in 1851. It is of an octagonal shape, and consists of two varieties, both of which are quite rare, generally bringing from \$60 upwards. On the *obverse* of the first variety is an eagle with extended wings, grasping the shield of the United States and three arrows in the right talon, and an olive branch in the left. In its beak it holds a scroll inscribed "LIBERTY"; above the eagle is another scroll inscribed "880 THOUS." Legend, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA." Beneath is "50 D. C.," C standing for California. All the above is surrounded by a beaded circle. "AUGUSTUS HUMBERT, UNITED STATES ASSAYER CALIFORNIA OF GOLD, 1851," is inscribed on the edge of the coin. CALIFORNIA was most likely intended to be the last word of this superscription; and was misplaced through an accident on the part of the engraver. The *reverse* has only a sort of lining, there being no letters or device of any kind.

The *obverse* of the second variety is very much the same as the first. The legend is changed to "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . . . . . FIFTY DOLLARS;" and the scroll above the eagle reads "887 THOUS." Around the edge of the coin is "AUGUSTUS HUMBERT, UNITED STATES ASSAYER OF GOLD, CALIFORNIA," and the date, 1851. The *reverse* is similar to that of the first variety.

These coins are large in size and quite thick, and, on account of the softness of the gold, it is rather difficult to obtain first-rate specimens.

As a gold producing region, Alaska promises soon to rival California. Numerous rich mines have been discovered within the past few years; and there is one situated on Douglass Island, which yields \$3,000,000 yearly in bullion, and appears to be inexhaustible. There is also an immense mill, perfectly equipped and constantly in operation there.

Coins of China have no dates upon them. The characters represent the reigning emperor, and from these the dates are obtained.

## COINS OF UTAH.

The Mormons of Utah issued a number of gold coins about forty years ago, consisting of 2 1-2, 5, 10 and 20 dollar pieces. On the *obverse* is an eye surmounted by a crown; legend "HOLINESS TO THE LORD." *Reverse*, two clasped hands, and the date beneath. The legend on the ten-dollar pieces is "PURE GOLD . . . . TEN DOLLARS;" on the other pieces "G. S. L. C. P. G." and the denomination (the initials standing for Great Salt Lake City Pure Gold). These coins circulated among the Mormons for a number of years, and were usually almost up to their professed standard.

In the second northern gallery at the British Museum has been arranged in chronological order a series of English coins in gold, silver, and copper. It seems that the coinage of the English had no direct connection with the earlier British coinage, nor with the short-lived currency which was introduced into this island by the Romans. It was Henry VII., in 1504, who placed, for the first time, an authentic portrait on English coins; he also made an addition to the gold coins by striking "sovereigns," so called because they bore the figure of the sovereign seated on his throne. It was during and after the reign of Charles II. that the English coinage declined very greatly in interest and variety. The first guineas were made in this reign, from gold brought from the Guinea Coast. In the reign of Queen Anne there were some coins bearing the name of "Vigo," because they were made from bullion captured in Vigo Bay.

The Chronique Industrielle gives the following recipe for a paste that will remove rust and not scratch the finest polished surface: Cyanide of potassium, 16 grains; soap, 15 grams; water, sufficient to make a thick paste.

The letters and figures usually found on Mexican coins below the liberty-cap, refer to the value, place of coinage, date, mint master's initials, and the degree of fineness of the metal of which they are composed.

The copper coins of Greece and her colonies, in beauty of execution and design, have never been excelled even at the present day.



*CONFEDERATE BILLS.*

The following is a complete list, or nearly so, of the paper money used by the Confederates in 1861-5.

Engraved by the National Bank Note Co., green and black central design.

- \$50. Females on bale.
- \$50. Negroes working in a field.
- \$100. Cars to right.
- \$100. Cars to left.
- \$500. Cattle standing in brook.
- \$1000. Portraits of Calhoun and Jackson.

JULY 25, 1861.

Printed in black central design.

- \$5. Female and numeral.
- \$10. Female and flag.
- \$20. Female riding on deer.
- \$20. Ship under full sail in center.
- \$50. Portrait of Washington.
- \$100. Females enveloped in clouds.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1861.

- \$2. Portrait of Judah P. Benjamin to the left.
- \$2. Female seated on bale.
- \$5. Machinist in right hand corner.
- \$5. Five females, red and black.
- \$5. Portrait of Memminger.
- \$5. Same, "Five Dollars" in green.
- \$5. Negroes to the left, loading cotton.
- \$5. Sailor standing near bale.
- \$5. Same, printed in blue.
- \$10. Portrait of Hunter in left hand corner.
- \$10. Same, "X X" in red.
- \$10. Child on the right, red and black.
- \$10. Negro picking cotton.
- \$10. Wagon, denomination in red.
- \$10. Female leaning upon a shield, on the left.
- \$10. Females with urn, on the left.
- \$10. Camp of General Marion.
- \$10. Indians in center, red and black.
- \$20. Three females, green and black.
- \$20. Female and globe, red and black.
- \$20. Portrait of Stevens, green and black.
- \$20. Ship in center, sailor at left.
- \$50. Train of cars, red and black.
- \$50. Female with money chests.
- \$50. Portrait of Jefferson Davis, green and black.
- \$100. Men loading a cotton wagon.

JUNE 2, 1862.

- \$1. Portrait of Mrs. Gov. Pickens, on the right.
- \$1. Same, "ONE" in green, across.
- \$2. Portrait of Benjamin, on the left.
- \$2. Same, "Two" in green, across.

DECEMBER 2, 1862.

- \$1. Portrait of Clay, pink paper.
- \$2. Portrait of Benjamin on the right, pink paper.
- \$5. Capitol at Richmond, pink paper.
- \$10. Capitol at Montgomery, pink paper.
- \$20. Capitol at Nashville.
- \$50. Portrait of Davis, green and black.
- \$100. Portrait of Mrs. Davis.

1862.

- \$100. Train of cars.
- \$100. Same, "100" in center.
- \$100. Negroes working in field, denomination in red.

APRIL 6, 1863.

- 50c. Portrait of Davis, pink paper.
- \$1. Portrait of Clay, pink paper.
- \$2. Portrait of Benjamin, on the right, pink paper.
- \$5. Capitol at Richmond.
- \$10. Capitol at Montgomery.
- \$20. Capitol at Nashville.
- \$50. Portrait of Davis, green and black.
- \$100. Portrait of Mrs. Davis.

FEBRUARY 17, 1864.

- 50c. Portrait of Davis, pink paper.
- \$1. Portrait of Clay, red and black.
- \$2. Portrait of Benjamin, on the right, red and black.
- \$5. Capitol at Richmond, red and black.
- \$10. Artillery going at full speed.
- \$20. Capitol at Nashville, red and black.
- \$50. Portrait of Davis, red and black.
- \$100. Portrait of Mrs. Davis, red and black.
- \$100. Same, but considerably smaller.
- \$500. Portrait of Stonewall Jackson, on the right, red and black.

In the Capitol at Montgomery, Ala., is religiously preserved a large Bible, printed by the American Bible Society in 1851, and bearing upon a fly-leaf this sentence: "The oath of office, as first President of the Provisional Government of the Confederate States of America, was administered to Jefferson Davis upon this Bible by Howard Cobb, President of the Provisional Congress, at the front portico of the Capitol in Montgomery on the 18th day of February, A. D., 1861." The book, it may be added, is still used in swearing in Governors of the State.

Electroplating with silver upon wood is now successfully performed, the process being adapted to handles of all kinds, including canes and umbrella sticks.

### RECENT DISCOVERIES OF OLD COINS.

A singular discovery of gold coins has been made at Park Street, a little village on the southern borders of Bedfordshire, and has been reported to the Treasury. A man in the employment of Mr. Boff, carpenter and builder, was engaged splitting some old oak beams, when, in the center of one of them, he came upon a cavity, out of which rolled a number of bright coins. The hole had been neatly formed, and was circular in shape, having apparently been drilled into the wood, and it was fitted with a plug to conceal it. On further search being made, another hiding place of the same kind was found, also containing treasure. The coins, which number over a hundred, consist of nobles, angels, and half-angels, and vary in date from the reign of Henry VI. to that of Henry VIII. They are in excellent preservation. Some of them bear the figure of St. Michael, others a ship with a cross for a mast, and all have Latin inscriptions upon them. The largest coins are about the size of half-a-crown, and the smallest resemble a sovereign. It is not known at present where the beam in which the treasure was found came from, as Mr. Boff has recently pulled down several old farm houses and other buildings in the neighborhood.—*Numismatic Magazine, England.*

A very interesting discovery of ancient coins was made some time since in the neighborhood of Carystos, in the island of Euboea. In preparing the foundations of a house, there were found in an earthen vessel over seventy Athenian tetradrachms of pre-Roman times, three Athenian drachms of Carystos itself. One of the tetradrachms has in the inscription the names of the *demos*, and is believed to be a unique specimen of the kind. Between the death of Alexander and the Roman domination, the coining of money used to be entrusted at Athens to certain selected persons, who introduced their own names into the superscription; but this case would indicate that, occasionally at least, for some particular reason, the *demos* took the coinage into their own hands, stamping the name on the coins. Most of the other tetradrachms bear the names of Archons. Carystos, the modern Karysto, or Castel Rosso, is a seaport near the southern extremity of the island. Euboean silver coins are all quite rare. *American Exchange and Mart.*

All dies of coins at the U. S. Mint are destroyed once a year.

### AUTOGRAPHS.

An autograph letter of George Washington was sold in Washington a few days since at an administrator's sale for \$17.

Queen Victoria is said to possess the finest set in existence of autographs of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence.

The first part of the famous Cist collection of autographs was sold at auction last month by Bangs & Co. of New York, and netted the large sum of \$8,493. There are two more parts to be sold.

At a sale of autographs in New York, Napoleon Bonaparte's signature realized \$60, and among the signers of the Declaration of Independence Samuel Adams' autograph sold for \$35, Robert Treat Paine's for \$22, Roger Sherman's for \$25, Lewis Morris' for \$85, Abraham Clark's for \$20, Richard Stockton's for \$50, Thomas Lynch's, Jr., for \$210, Bretton Gwinnett's for \$185, and Lyman Hall's for \$36.

Of all antiquities coins are the smallest, yet, as a class, the most authoritative in record, and the widest in range. No history is so unbroken as that which they tell; no geography so complete; no art so continuous in sequence, nor so broad in extent; no mythology so ample and so various. Unknown kings, lost towns, forgotten divinities, new schools of art, have here their authentic record.

In passing upon the condition of a coin, experts critically survey every portion of the piece, noting the slightest blemish, or wear from either cabinet friction, handling or actual circulation. It requires both study and experience to accurately grade the state of preservation from a scientific standpoint. This may in part account for dealers refusing to buy coins without seeing them.

It was supposed that the name "Columbia" was first used in America, in 1775, but it has been discovered in a volume of poems, composed by graduates of Harvard, in 1761, in honor of George the Third.

The combined capital of the Rothschilds is estimated at \$1,000,000,000. Half of this has been gained within the last twenty-five years, and the whole of it in scarcely more than a century.

The San Francisco mint employs at present 300 hands. It is the largest in the world, having a coinage capacity twice that of Philadelphia and thrice that of the English mint.



# THE American \* Numismatist.

Edited by C. E. LEAL.

## SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.

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TERMS.—*Cash in advance.* All advertisements, exchange notices, etc., intended for publication in our next number must reach us before the 25th of this month. Subscribers will confer a great favor by remitting by postal note, money order or registered letter, instead of postage stamps.

Address all communications to

C. E. LEAL,

149 Ellison Street,

Paterson, N. J.

*Entered as Second-Class Matter at Paterson Post Office.*

OCTOBER, 1886.

The new silver certificates are now in circulation. They have quite a handsome design, and it is to be hoped that they will be more popular than the standard dollar.

We wish very much to exchange with some paper devoted only to Numismatics. We have received only one such and that came from a foreign country. There surely must be several published in the United States.

All the Philatelic journals are filled with accounts of the formation of the American Philatelic Association, which appears to be proving a great success. An association of the same sort for Numismatists would be very instructive and useful for our young collectors, and there is no reason why it should not prove equally successful.

The collection of Mr. H. F. Haines, consisting of coins, stamps, minerals, Indian implements, curiosities, birds' eggs, etc., etc., has been catalogued by Mr. D. Proskey of this city, and will soon be sold at auction in New York. Intending purchasers may have a catalogue sent them by inclosing three cents in stamps to the cataloguer's address, 448 River St., Paterson, N. J.

Coin collectors, send in your subscriptions.

Our correspondents will please be a little more careful in directing mail to us. We are constantly receiving letters, papers, etc., which have been incorrectly addressed. Though we always get them in the end, still, if a little more care were taken considerable delay and annoyance would be avoided. We clip the following from a recent issue of the *Paterson Daily Press*: "There are thirteen Patersons in the United States, or, speaking more precisely, there are twelve Pattersons and one Paterson. The result has been for a long time that persons in addressing letters to Paterson, N. J., put in two t's, and of course the letters went off somewhere else, for persons who were so careless were apt to add "N. Y." instead of "N. J." Then a number of letters were addressed to Patterson, N. J., most of which found their way to Patterson, N. Y. The postmaster of Patterson, N. Y., reports that in the week during which he kept an account of this matter, he received eighty letters, thirty-two newspapers and packages of newspapers, and one registered letter, all of which were intended for this city. With one exception these letters were addressed either Patterson, N. Y., or Paterson, N. Y. \* \* \* \*."

## SPECIAL OFFERS.

On account of the lateness of our first issue, we have decided to continue these offers until January 1.

To all who send us two subscriptions we will give two varieties of Confederate bills, or three large United States cents.

To all who send us four subscriptions we will give two varieties of Colonial bills, or eight varieties of war tokens.

To all who send us ten subscriptions we will give a \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, and \$100 Confederate bill.

It was the custom in some of the small South American countries, until a few years since, to cut both silver and copper coins into equal portions to represent fractions of the original coin and as such they were current. The eight-real piece (or dollar) and the four, two and one-real were all thus utilized.

For odd shapes in coins, China and Japan have the lead; in those of the greatest weight, Sweden excels; the smallest are those of Nuremberg and Nepal. That which represents the greatest value, in a coin struck from dies, belongs to the United States. France exceeds in experimental pieces.

## ❖ New ❖ Publications. ❖

NOTICE TO PUBLISHERS. We desire to exchange with every paper in the world published in the interests of coin, stamp, or curiosity collectors. Please send two copies.

*The Numismatic Magazine*, published by Nunn & Christie, Bury S. Edmund's, England, is the only coin journal that we have received as yet. Though rather small in size, it is well printed, and contains a number of well written and interesting articles.

*The Curiosity World* is a new paper published by Mr. John M. Hubbard of Lake Village, N. H. The first number consists of four large pages of five columns each and contains articles on coins, stamps and curiosities.

*The Tag Collector* is a monthly which, as its name implies, is devoted to the interests of collectors of tags, &c.

We have received number one of *The Canadian Philatelist* of Toronto, Canada. It presents a fine appearance, and under the management of Mr. Lowe should prove a success.

*The Empire State Philatelist* has made several alterations in the September number, most of which, however, have not improved it, as there was very little room for improvement before.

We have also received the following papers: *Golden State Scientist, Stamp and Coin Gazette, Hoosier Naturalist, Philatelic Herald, Buck's Monthly, Old Curiosity Shop, Advocate, Mohawk Standard, Monthly Journal, and Cumberland Collector*.

Catalogues: R. W. Mercier, F. C. Sawyer, C. W. Stutesman, &c., &c.

Wampum was the name given to small beads made of shells, used by the North American Indians as money, and also wrought into belts and other ornaments. It was of two kinds, one being white and the other black, or of a dark purple color. It consisted of cylindrical pieces of the shells of testaceous (hard-shelled) fishes, a quarter of an inch long, and less than a pipe-stem in diameter, drilled lengthwise, so as to be strung upon a thread. The white beads, rated at half the value of the black or violet, passed each as the equivalent of a farthing in transactions between the natives and the early settlers.

Coins have been issued and used in electrum, gold, glass, brass, copper, iron, lead, leather, nickel, porcelain, platinum, silver, seal-skin, parchment and wood.

## UNITED STATES EARLY COINS.

The first coin issued by the United States was the Franklin or Fugio cent. Some claim that the Copper cent of 1793 was the first issued by our government; but it is not so, for in 1783 the U. S. Congress passed an act to coin the Franklin cent. They were coined in two different states, Vermont and Connecticut. In 1793 the cent known as the Copper cent was coined, for which there were five different dies used, viz: "Chain," "America," "Thin and Thick die," "Lettered edge" and "Liberty Cap;" and in the same year, the Half-cents appeared, for which there was only one die used known as "Liberty Cap." The first Silver Dollar was issued in 1794, for which only one die was used, and known as "Flowing Hair." The dollar of 1804 is one of the rarest of coins issued by the United States. As high as \$500 is paid for a good one. The first Half Dollar was coined in 1794, same die as the dollar being used. The date of 1796, with sixteen stars, is valued at \$100. Quarter dollars were first coined in 1796. The die used is known as the "Fillet Head." Those bearing the dates of 1823 and 1827 are the most rare, as high as \$30 and \$50 being paid for them.

The Twenty-cent pieces were first coined in 1875, and only coined four years. Those bearing the dates of 1877 and 1878 are very rare, being valued at two dollars. Ten-cent pieces were first coined in 1796, and the die of which being known as "Fillet Head." Those coined in 1804 are rare, and worth \$10, as are also those of 1802. Half-dimes were first coined in 1794, the die used being known as "Flowing Hair." Those with the date of 1802 are very rare, and as high as \$125 is paid for a fine one. The first three-cent piece was coined in 1853, and the last in 1873, which is worth as high as \$2. The first Silver coin known to be in the new world is the Pine Tree XII Massachusetts Shilling valued at \$50 — *N. B. Merrick, in Young World*.

We have received a copy of the Numismatic Directory through the kindness of Mr. R. W. Mercier of Cincinnati, O.

A gold nugget, worth \$575, was picked up on the main street of Auburn, Cal., after a heavy rain storm.

The Japanese government intends to withdraw paper money this year and introduce silver currency. Gold will continue to be coined.



## Correspondence \* Department.

This department is intended for the exchange of opinions on the different branches of Numismatics. Any information relative to questions published here will be thankfully received by the Editor.

EDITOR AMERICAN NUMISMATIST.—Will you please tell me through your paper what the following coins are, and their value? No. 1. Obverse, a ship under full sail; reverse, plain, with words "Ships, Colonies and Commerce;" no date. No. 2. Obverse, a coat of arms, surrounded by the inscription "Indeo Est Spes Nostra;" rev., "D Gel Riae 1788." No. 3. Obverse, a wine barrel, etc., in center of coin, surrounded by the words "Payable at David Peter's Wine and Spirit Shop;" rev., coat of arms in center, around which is "Perth Half Penny, 1697." J. M. M.

Paterson, N. J. Sept. 10, 1886.

### ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS PUBLISHED PREVIOUSLY.

*Collector.*—Your coin is a Siamese gambler's token, worth perhaps thirty or forty cents. These tokens were formerly used as currency in Siam.

*C. E. Leal.*—The first coin journal published in the United States was probably *The American Journal of Numismatics*, issued in 1866, and continued at the present time in Boston.

*J. Brown, N. Y.*—Following are the principal ways of collecting Confederate notes, and each in its way would constitute a full collection: One of each type and denomination. Same by different printers of notes. Same of each series. Finally each letter on a plate, and add varieties.

*Leo Ruben.*—The old style nickels of 1883 generally sell at from ten to fifteen cents each, if in proof or uncirculated condition, but they will bring no premium from a dealer, as almost every one has more than he can get rid of.

### ORIGIN OF "NOVA CÆSAREA."

When King Charles Stuart gave New Jersey to Lord Berkely and Sir George Carteret, the gift was intended mainly as a reward for the latter, who, while governor of the channel island of Jersey had valiantly defended it against the parliamentary soldiers. Consequently the territory was named by the donors "Nova Cæsarea, or New Jersey." It was intended that "Nova Cæsarea" should be properly the title, but as the population of the province increased, the people preferred its translated name rather than the classical appellation.

F. H. McLARRY.

## A FINE COLLECTION.

One of the largest and finest collections of coins in the United States is owned by Mr. David Proskey of this city. Through the kindness of this gentleman, I recently had the opportunity of inspecting it.

His collection, which numbers many thousands and in which nearly every country in the world is represented, is arranged in five or six large-sized and handsome cabinets, and numerous other receptacles. The ancient Greek and Roman coins make up a large portion of the collection, and include many hundred varieties, about half of which are silver. Two or three cabinets are also filled with fine sets of modern foreign coins; but the portion most interesting to me contained his American Colonial, Centennial, political and war tokens, or medals, and his U. S. coins. These were all very fine, especially the U. S. cents, which were in a splendid state of preservation, as indeed were all the coins in the collection, no poor ones being allowed a place in any of the cabinets.

Besides this collection, which is worth a fortune in itself, Mr. Proskey has large collections of Colonial, Centennial, and Confederate bills; Indian relics, postage and revenue stamps and curiosities. His collection of bills is very large, and includes many valuable ones; his collection of stamps is also large, numbering several thousand varieties. —*Ed.*

The most valuable modern coin is the Confederate silver dollar, which is held at \$1,200 to \$1,500. On it the legend reads: "Confederate States of America." There is a shield with bars and stars, surmounted by a liberty cap. The shield is enclosed in a wreath composed of interwoven cotton and cane stalks. A recent discovery has been made of a Confederate half-dollar, which has been sold for \$500 to \$600. Only four of these coins were struck.

The collecting of old coins is a pursuit engaged in by the older and more wealthy class of people. The main object is to get a complete set of the United States coins of every issue. Such a collection is worth a very large sum, and there is hardly a collector who has the entire set. Among the coins most eagerly sought for are the dollars of 1804, quarters of 1827, cents of 1799 and 1804, and all coins used in the colonies before they were minted.

A cent of 1821 is rare.



## NOTES.

Complete sets of U. S. fractional currency are worth, if in good condition, from two to ten times their face values, according to the date of their issue.

The petrified skeleton of a whale over thirty feet long has been discovered, by an officer of the coast survey, on a range of mountains in Monterey county, Cal., over 3,300 feet above the sea level.

Specie payment was suspended in December, 1861. The highest premium ever paid on gold since that time was in July, 1864, when the value of \$100 in gold ranged from \$275 to \$285 in currency. Specie payment was resumed January 1, 1879.

William Sherer of the United States Sub-treasury, New York City, has been known to count paper money at the rate of 1000 notes in six minutes. It is stated that there are women in the Treasury at Washington who can count even faster than that.

In an Indian mound near Oakland, Indiana, a stone wall ten feet square was recently unearthed. Within were five or six skeletons, three copper vessels filled with fifty pounds of rich silver ore, a copper ax weighing eighteen pounds attached to a stone handle, and a number of stone hatchets.

Before 1850, every Canton in Switzerland had its own currency; but in that year it was changed, and a federal currency, resembling the French system, was substituted. One and two centimes were coined in bronze; five, ten and twenty centimes in composition; and fifty centimes, one franc, two francs and five francs in silver. No gold was coined.

A firm in Savannah, Georgia, engaged in the coal business, has been buying up Confederate money, offering two or three cents apiece for each bill, to be used for advertising purposes. The *Savannah News* says:—"At first the notes came in rapidly, but of late there have not been many offering. The market seems to be pretty well bought up. Bills were picked up at every point from Virginia to Texas. Some were tattered and showed wear, and some were as bright and crisp as new. One package of \$1,500 looked as if the notes were just from the press. Altogether the firm has purchased 20,000 bills, which once represented millions of Confederate dollars."

An almanac three thousand years old, found in Egypt, is in the British Museum. It is said to be the oldest in the world. It was found on the body of an Egyptian, who had doubtless regarded it

with as much reverence as he did the Egyptian Bible,—“The Book of the Dead;” and, indeed, it is strongly religious in character. The days are written in red ink, and under each is a figure followed by three characters, signifying the probable state of the weather for that day. Like other Egyptian manuscripts, it is written on papyrus. It clearly establishes the date of the reign of Rameses the Great, but contains nothing else of value.

In reference to the present fictitious value of these two numismatic rarities, (the 1799 and 1804 U. S. copper cents) we would say, that an *uncirculated*, or more properly speaking, an unworn copper cent of 1799, of good color and sharp would fetch at public auction almost as much as an 1804 United States silver dollar; or to come down to plain figures *five to eight* hundred dollars. A 1799 cent in the latter condition, is unknown, either at home, or abroad, in the cabinet of any private collector of State, or institution. The same can be said of the 1804 cent, with two or perhaps three exceptions, although the fictitious value of the latter would not reach half the price of the former—conditions and sharpness of pieces being equal. J. J. Mickley, the late Numismatic expert (whose cabinet of American coins before his great loss by robbery was not excelled in value, or condition, in the United States), spent nearly a lifetime in the search for a good 1799 copper cent. Mr. Mickley's object at first was to secure a cent of the date of his birth, as a pocket piece, and he often told us that he secured every other date of the cent series before he obtained the long-sought-for date, 1799, and this simple object in Mr. Mickley's life led up to the formation of one of the grandest cabinets of American coins known at the time of his great loss by burglars in the year 1867, and gave to American Numismatic History one of the best of contributors, whose decease numismatists of two hemispheres constantly deplore.—*E. L. Mason in American Exchange and Mart.*

## THE COINAGE FOR AUGUST.

The coinage of the U. S. mints during August amounted to \$2,776,000 in silver coin, and \$2,220,000 in gold. Of the silver coinage \$2,700,000 were in standard dollar pieces, and \$76,000 were in dimes.

The half-cents of 1838 to 1849 are very rare, and but few collectors can boast of possessing them in proof condition. The eleven, if proofs, are easily worth one hundred dollars.

## ✿Exchange✿Department.✿

NOTICE: Exchanges will be inserted in this department free of charge for subscribers only. We reserve the right to reject any exchange.

Parties having the brass-encased postage stamps used in 1862; or *scarce* match, medicine, or other U. S. revenue stamps, can by sending them to me, with stamp for return postage, receive ancient or modern coins, postage or revenue stamps to their full value in exchange. D. Prosky, 448 River St., Paterson, N. J.

Ten varieties of good stamp and coin papers, or five Indian arrow-points, for every 20-cent piece, in good condition, sent me. C. E. Leal, 149 Ellison St., Paterson, N. J.

A coin manual containing 125 pages, over 200 illustrations, with prices of coins, and gives history of the U. S. Mint, for best offer in old U. S. copper cents, currency, or Indian relics. Also old U. S. copper cents for others not in my collection. Minerals for the same, or for coins, fractional currency, Confederate notes or Indian relics. E. T. Oberholtzer, Hatfield, Pa.

A lot of stamp papers, minerals, fossils and curios, for coins of all kinds. Collectors send list of duplicates to W. H. Taylor, North Wales, Pa.

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